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MESSAGE NO. 3703 CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE No. Pages 2

FROM: Harold Eisner ARA/CEN 632-4975 Rm. 4915  
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Draft Letters to Congressmen Boland and Fascell  
Re. House Resolution 484.

TO: (Agency)	DELIVER TO:	Extension	Room No.
CIA			STAT
DOD/ISA	Col. William Seeley	697-9301	Rm. 7B02
			Rm. 4C800

FOR: CLEARANCE  INFORMATION  PER REQUEST  COMMENT

REMARKS: Clearance needed before COB Tuesday, April 24, 1984

S/S Officer: Quinn

**DRAFT**

United States Department of State



Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of April 11, 1984, sought the views of the Administration on House Resolution 484, a proposed Resolution of Inquiry seeking detailed information on United States military involvement in Central America. The Administration appreciates very much the opportunity to express its views on the proposed resolution.

The Department of State has already supplied the Committee on Foreign Affairs with a considerable amount of the information requested in the proposed resolution. Moreover, we are prepared to provide to your Committee additional information including information described in H. Res. 484, and will communicate directly with the Committee's staff with a view to being responsive to the Committee's needs.

Similarly, it is my understanding that the Department of Defense has supplied the Armed Services Committee with a large volume of information on the activities of U.S. military forces and personnel in Central America, and would be happy to respond promptly to any requests by the concerned Committees to supplement this information.

With respect to intelligence activities, we understand that the Central Intelligence Agency has supplied detailed information to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and would be happy to respond promptly to any requests by that Committee for supplementary information.

As you know, since 1976 the degree to which intelligence-related information is shared with other committees of the House is under the control of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

We continue to doubt the wisdom of periodic Resolutions of Inquiry as a substitute for the ongoing cooperation which we have maintained with the Committees of Congress, or for the carefully structured intelligence oversight process. Meeting congressional information needs under the current, statutory arrangement is preferable to passage of individual resolutions

**The Honorable**

**Edward P. Boland, Chairman,  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,  
House of Representatives.**

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concerning the furnishing of sensitive intelligence information. House Resolution 484, therefore, would appear to be both unnecessary and potentially disruptive to an established system of information sharing that has proven to be mutually beneficial to the Executive and Legislative Branches of our government. This Resolution also raises fundamental constitutional questions about the authority of the Congress to compel the President to disclose intelligence and operational military matters which may be highly sensitive to U.S. national security. Thus, it is the view of the Administration that House Resolution 484 should not be adopted.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

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